

Development of tourist centres in Tamil Nadu

3009. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to consider granting special package to develop the tourist centres in Tamil Nadu particularly Kodaikanal, Sirumalai Hills and improve all round facilities of the pilgrim centres of Madurai, Palani and Rameshwaram;

(b) whether any special schemes available with her Ministry for the development of tourism in the State of Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the allotment of funds made therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourist spots/centres is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations themselves. However, from the Tenth Five Year Plan the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has been providing Central financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations on the basis of project proposals prioritised in consultation with them every year under the following schemes:

- (1) Development of Tourist Circuits
- (2) Product Infrastructure and Destination Development
- (3) Large Revenue Generating Projects
- (4) Fairs and Festivals

Funds to the tune of Rs.9872.56 lakh have been sanctioned for development of tourism in the State of Tamil Nadu during the Tenth Plan (till date) which includes the following projects:

(Rs. in lakh)		
Sl. No.	Name of the project	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3
1.	Setting up of Eco-Tourism-cum-Bird Centre at Rameshwaram	42.50
2.	Development of Rameshwaram as a part of Vivekananda Circuit	168.24
3.	Erection of Passenger Ropeway at Kodaikanal (LRG project)	363.00
4.	National pilgrim festival at Rameshwaram	5.00

1	2	3
5.	Destination development of Rameshwaram	426.42
6.	Destination development of Kodaikanal	470.19
7.	Destination development of Madurai	478.03
8.	Integrated development of Arupadai Veedugal (Murugan Temple circuit) on the sector Palani-Madurai-Trichendur-Swamimalai-Tiruttani	798.97

Promotion of tourism in West Bengal

3010. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tourism related projects being implemented by Government in West Bengal;

(b) whether Government have not promoted vigorously various places of tourist interest in West Bengal, abroad through the foreign tourist offices;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of foreign tourists, visited West Bengal during the last three years; and

(e) the steps being taken to promote West Bengal as a tourist attraction both within and outside the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) In the year 2006-07, an amount of Rs.355.49 lakh has been sanctioned for the project 'Creation/setting up tourism infrastructural facilities at Goke under Destination Development', Rs.498.38 lakh for the project 'Development of Kalimpong under Destination Development' and Rs.388.98 lakh for the project 'Tea Tourism Circuit in North Bengal'.

A list of projects sanctioned for the State of West Bengal during the Tenth Plan period is given in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(b) to (e) The Ministry of Tourism, through its indiatourism offices in India and abroad, undertakes a series of promotional activities in tourist generating markets overseas and in the country, in order to attract tourists to the various historical, cultural and heritage sites in the country including those in West Bengal. These activities include advertising participation in